GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5464
ANSWERED ON:06.04.2017
Review of Anti-pollution Campaign of Major Rivers
Meena Shri Harish Chandra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain major rivers including Ganga still continue to be more toxic despite anti-pollution campaign and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has received any report from Central Water Commission in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has undertaken any review of the anti-pollution campaign; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow up action taken thereon ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring water quality of river at 429 key locations covering 67 main rivers including Ganga, 138 tributaries and 55 sub-tributaries. CWC has published a report based on analysis of data for nine parameters viz. Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Mercury, Nickel and Zinc from 2011 to 2013. The report titled "Status of Trace and Toxic Metals in Indian Rivers" is available on the Website www.cwc.gov.in.

Out of total 195 rivers/tributaries monitored by Central Water Commission during the period 2015 to 2016, there are 126 rivers where one or more parameters related to heavy metals exceeded the permissible limit.

(c) & (d) The Government undertakes continuous review of Anti-pollution measures. Conservation & cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous & collective effort of Central Government, State Governments, Local bodies and general public.

Under Namami Gange Programme a holistic approach has been adopted to clean the river Ganga. The various types of pollution abatement schemes taken up to clean Ganga may be categorized into core and non-core schemes. Core schemes include Interception and Diversion (I&D) of sewage discharging into the Ganga and creating treatment infrastructure to treat the intercepted sewage and industrial effluents. Non-Core schemes include providing Low Cost Sanitation (LCS) at community and individual levels at identified locations, installation of Crematoria (electric as well as wood based improved crematoria), River Front Development (RFD) including bathing ghats, river surface cleaning, afforestation, protecting biodiversity and creating public awareness and participation.

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